Union Finance Minister, in its meeting held on 1st July, 2009 and the HLC approved as under:-

(i) Rs. 83.83 crores from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) subject to the adjustment of 75% of balance available in the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) account of the State.

(ii) Rs. 14.28 crores from Special Component of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), implemented by the Department of Drinking Water Supply.

Expansion of NAIS

3666. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether only 4 per cent of the country's farmers have availed the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme (NAIS) cover and more than 57 per cent farmers are unaware of crops being insured;

(b) whether a modified version of the existing insurance scheme for farmers is under examination by Government to expand the risk cover to more and more farmers;

(c) whether the present crop insurance scheme covers 23 States and 2 UTs and whether the Agricultural Insurance Corporation is insisting for a hike in premium for expanded coverage; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No, Sir. At present, about 15.8% of total farmer's holdings are being covered under the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS). For better awareness about the scheme and to expand its coverage, particularly for non-loanee farmers, publicity campaigns both in print and electronic media through States/implementing agency is carried out.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) NAIS, at present, is being implemented by 25 States and 2 Union Territories.

No, Sir. For normal risk coverage (sum insured) flat premium rates ranging between 1.5% to 3.5% for food (including pulses), oilseeds and actuarial rates for annual commercial/ horticultural crops are being charged. In case farmer wants to avail higher level of risk coverage (upto 150% of sum insured) commercial/actuarial rates of premium would be charged in respect of food and oilseed crops.

Alternative arrangements to tackle the uncertainty of monsoon

3667. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: